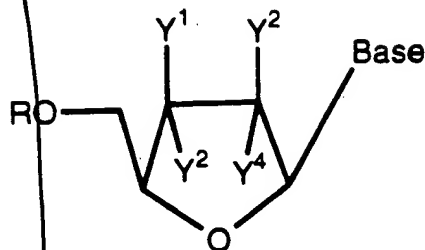


We claim:

1. A method for the treatment of HBV infection of



wherein B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

Y¹, Y², Y³, and Y⁴ are independently H, OH, N₃, NR¹R², NO₂, NOR³, -O-alkyl, -O-aryl, halo (including F, Cl, Br, or I), -CN, -C(O)NH₂, SH, -S-alkyl, or -S-aryl, and wherein typically three of Y¹, Y², Y³, and Y⁴ are either H or OH. The -OH substituent, when present, is typically a Y¹ or Y³ group. As illustrated in the structure, Y² and Y⁴ are in the arabino (erythro) configuration, and Y¹ and Y³ are in the threo (ribose) configuration. R is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, alkyl, acyl or a phosphate derivative, as described in more detail below. R¹, R², and R³ are independently alkyl (and in particular lower alkyl), aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, acyl, or hydrogen.

Ref A1